

**In the Claims:**

Please add claims 21 to 26, cancel claims 2, 4, 7, and 9 without prejudice, and amend claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, and 17 to 20 as follows:

1.(currently amended) An applicator for applying an oxidative hair dyeing mixture to human hair, said applicator (1) comprising two compartments (2,3) and a product-dispensing area or spot (4), said two compartments including a first compartment (2) containing an oxidative hair dye composition and a second compartment (3) containing an oxidizing agent;

wherein said two compartments (2,3) are provided with respective product-dispensing openings (5,6), which are arranged so as to open next to each other into the product-dispensing area or spot (4);

wherein corresponding liquid-permeable inserts (7,8) are inserted in said two compartments (2,3) through said respective product-dispensing openings (5,6) so as to protrude beyond said product-dispensing openings, said corresponding liquid-permeable inserts (7,8) comprising a spongy material, bristles, or a fabric that is permeable for the oxidizing agent and the oxidative hair dye composition; and

wherein said compartments are provided with means for preventing drying out of said oxidizing agent and said oxidative hair dye composition.

Claim 2.(canceled)

3.(currently amended) The applicator as defined in claim 1[[2]], wherein said liquid-permeable inserts (7,8) are made of felt.

Claim 4.(canceled)

5.(currently amended) The applicator as defined in claim 1[[2]], wherein said liquid-permeable inserts (7,8) protrude beyond said product-dispensing openings (5, 6) by about 1 to 10 mm.

6.(previously presented) The applicator as defined in claim 1, wherein one (5) of said product-dispensing openings is arranged centrally and provided with a circular cross-section and another (6) of said product-dispensing openings concentrically surrounds said one (5) of said product-dispensing openings and has an annular cross-section.

Claim 7.(canceled)

8.(currently amended) The applicator as defined in claim 1[[6]], wherein said first compartment (2) is cylindrical and said second compartment (3) surrounds said first compartment and has an annular cross-section.

Claim 9.(canceled)

10.(previously presented) The applicator as defined in claim 1, wherein one of said two compartments (2,3) is exchangeable.

11.(currently amended) The applicator as defined in claim 1[[2]], wherein said first compartment (2) is insertable together with one (7) of said inserts into a remaining portion of the applicator or into said second compartment (3).

12.(previously presented) The applicator as defined in claim 11, wherein said first compartment (2) is insertable through an opening (11) in a base (12) of said remaining portion and is provided with a stop (13) for keeping said first compartment (2) at a desired position in relation to said second compartment (3).

13.(currently amended) The applicator as defined in claim 1, wherein said means for preventing drying out of said oxidizing agent and said oxidative hair dye composition comprises ~~further comprising~~ a covering foil (18) for covering the product-dispensing openings (5,6) closing the product-dispensing spot or area (4) and wherein the covering foil (18) is connected in a liquid-tight manner with walls (14,15) of said two compartments (2,3).

14.(currently amended) The applicator as defined in claim 10, ~~further comprising a covering foil~~ wherein said means for preventing drying out of said oxidizing agent and said oxidative hair dye composition comprises corresponding covering foils (18) for closing said respective product-dispensing openings (5,6) and

wherein the covering foils (18) are connected in a liquid-tight manner with walls (14,15) of said two compartments (2,3).

15.(currently amended) The applicator as defined in claim 1~~[[11]]~~, wherein said means for preventing drying out of said oxidizing agent and said oxidative hair dye composition comprises a cap (10) further comprising a covering foil (16) for closing said product-dispensing openings (5,6).

16.(previously presented) The applicator as defined in claim 1, wherein said oxidizing agent comprises a peroxide solution.

Claims 17 to 20.(canceled)

21.(new) The applicator as defined in claim 13, wherein said covering foil (18) comprises a strip or tab (19) for easy removal of the covering foil.

22.(new) The applicator as defined in claim 14, wherein said covering foils (18) comprise strips or tabs (19) for easy removal of the covering foils.

23.(new) An applicator for applying an oxidative hair dyeing mixture to human hair, said applicator (1) comprising  
a cylindrical compartment (2) containing an oxidative hair dye composition; and

an annular compartment (3) surrounding the cylindrical compartment, said annular compartment having an annular cross-section and containing an oxidizing agent;

wherein said cylindrical compartment is insertable through an opening (11) provided in a base (12) of a remaining portion of the applicator, said remaining portion comprising said annular compartment (3), and said cylindrical compartment is provided with a stop (13) so that said cylindrical compartment cannot travel beyond a predetermined final position in said annular compartment (3);

wherein said compartments (2,3) are provided with respective product-dispensing openings (5,6), which are arranged so as to open next to each other into a product-dispensing space or area (4), and with corresponding covering foils (18) connected in a liquid-tight manner with walls (14,15) of said compartments (2,3) in order to close said product-dispensing openings (5,6) and thus prevent drying out of the oxidizing agent and hair dye composition; and

wherein said cylindrical compartment is replaceable in operation to change said oxidative hair dye composition.

24.(new) The applicator as defined in claim 23, further comprising corresponding liquid-permeable inserts (7,8) inserted into said compartments (2,3) through said respective product-dispensing openings (5,6) so as to protrude from the product-dispensing openings (5,6), and wherein said inserts (7,8) are made of a spongy

material, bristles, or a fabric that is permeable for the oxidizing agent and the oxidative hair dye composition.

25.(new) The applicator as defined in claim 24, wherein said liquid-permeable inserts (7,8) protrude into the product-dispensing space or area (4) and beyond said product-dispensing openings (5,6) by about 1 to 10 mm, so that, when said covering foils are removed, said oxidizing agent and said oxidative hair dye composition pass through said inserts and are mixed in said product-dispensing space or area (4) to form the oxidative hair dyeing mixture.

26.(new) The applicator as defined in claim 23, wherein said covering foil (18) comprises a strip or tab (19) for easy removal of the covering foil.